









## LATE TELEGRAMS.

BERLIN, March 19th.  
It is believed that, if General Caprivé resigns the Chancellorship—and it is still uncertain whether he will—the Emperor will not accept his resignation on the ground that a Chancellor of the Empire cannot resign on account of a difficulty with the Prussian Education Bill.

March 20th.  
General Caprivé has expressed his intention of not resigning, and it is probable that the Prussian Education Bill will be abandoned.

BRUSSELS, March 20th.  
Three classes of the Belgian Militia will be called out to assist the troops in preserving order during the labour demonstrations on the 31st of May.

LISBON, March 20th.  
An arrangement has been come to between the Portuguese Government and the delegates of the bondholders to reduce the interest on the foreign debt by one half.

BERLIN, March 21st.  
The Emperor William, who is in the country receding his health, has postponed his return to Berlin, his condition requiring him to abstain from all business.

LONDON, March 22nd.  
The House of Commons has adopted a resolution expelling Mr. Hastings, member for the Bromsgrove division, East Worcestershire, now undergoing five years' penal servitude for fraud.

## THE DELI CRASH.

Writing on the grave financial and commercial crisis said to exist in Deli, Sumatra, the *Pingang Gazette* says:—

Deli is, unfortunately for those interested in it, a country with but one industry—tobacco, and so enormous have been the profits hitherto derived from its production that no one has ever thought of utilising the resources of the country for other purposes. The welfare of the whole population is absolutely dependent upon the value which, from time to time, the tobacco dealers in Europe may place upon this luxury.

Last year it was judged unfavourably and only paid for accordingly, with the inevitable result that a crisis has occurred which is perhaps unprecedented in the annals of commercial fluctuations. Plantations which in 1890 yielded profits of 100 per cent., and even more, were last year, with one or two exceptions, barely able to pay working expenses. The effects of this are best illustrated by quoting some statistics which recently appeared in the *Deli Courant*. The number of estates to be closed is given at 39; there are 14,533 tobacco fields less than last year under cultivation; and the whole crop is estimated to produce a diminished output of 70,000 bales, equal to about 11,000,000 pounds of tobacco.

These figures are reliable, it would appear that some 20,000 coolies are thrown out of employment, and that the whole population is being able to find other means of subsistence in the country. The prospect of having in the near future so large a quantity of unemployed labour to control, and possibly provide for, naturally excited the alarm of the never too courageous Government, and they very properly took timely counsel as to the measures to be adopted to meet and cope with this grave crisis.

As a result of their consultations it was resolved and enacted that the cost of labour, prices and cost of living, and the East, and imported into the country at a huge sacrifice to the planters, was to be chased away and banished to other lands, because the governors of Deli were too timid or too indolent to allow it to remain where it is so sorely needed.

Referring to the first Dutch occupation of Deli the *Gazette* continues:—

The Dutch came, and, according to their immemorial custom, energetically set to work to tax all and everything that could be taxed, without caring much for the trouble and expense in the collecting. Not content with the ordinary sources of revenue from opium and spirits, which in certain well-governed English colonies, practically sufficed to meet all the financial requirements of Government, and which would have yielded a more than adequate remuneration for any services conferred on Deli by its present rulers, the Dutch imposed, in addition, burdens on incomes large and small, on land, house property, horses, carriages, all sorts of luxuries and necessities, and on tobacco, the sole export of the country. In fact, nothing of any consideration, save rice, has escaped their greed and cupidity. And what return has the country received for the sacrifice of all this wealth? Nothing, absolutely nothing, save a prison or two, a court where justice is vacillated and tardily administered, a handful of ill-trained soldiers, a sprinkling of under-paid officials of various complexions, and a band of rascals.

To sum up all, Deli always has been, and is likely to be for some time to come, shamefully misgoverned. It is the mischance of the Netherlands Indian Government, the happy hunting ground of indigent Governors-General. The blame does not rest at the doors of the local Government, but first at those of the Java Government and their whole system, and secondly at those of the European population who have submitted to and acquiesced in this colossal system of plunder. No local official can be blamed. In Resident Mischelzen the country has a man most thoroughly conversant with the high duties of his office, and most thoroughly anxious to discharge them. But he has merely the power to register and carry out the mandates of the powers above him.

## THE PROPOSED MILITARY CONTRIBUTION AT MAURITIUS REJECTED.

In Mauritius, the Unofficial members of the Council of Government are in the majority, and it will be seen that, as a united phalanx, they voted as one man against the measure for an increased Military Contribution, throwing out the Bill.

The Procurator-General proposed the second reading of an Ordinance to provide for the payment of a military contribution by the Colony of Mauritius for the years 1892, 1893 and 1894. He said that it was their duty to vote this amount, because it was asked for by Her Majesty's Government.

The Colonial Secretary, seconded and said the Governor had done all that was possible in order to have the amount of this contribution reduced. He had considered on all points the representations of the inhabitants, who, had pointed out that the Colony was not in a position to increase the amount of the contribution, but all efforts had not completely succeeded, and Her Majesty's Government had asked that the figure fixed by the Council should be increased.

He hoped that the Council would give the Government a fresh proof of its loyalty, as it had done under the administration of Sir John Pope Hennessy.

Mr. H. Ledwith said that they had often given excellent proof of loyalty, but that it could not be expected to see them vote such a sum which they were not in a position to give. He drew a picture of the general situation of the colony, which was very gloomy. By the talk of the Imperial Government, Mauritius found itself in the impossible position of contributing to the European cause. If England had not been so

island of Mauritius, the latter might perhaps have been able to give the contribution which was asked from her.

Mr. E. Antelme said that the state of their finances did not allow them even to contribute a sou as military contribution.

Mr. G. Gilbert observed that, according to the Minister, the inhabitants of Mauritius were less taxed than those of England, but he did not take into account the fact that the revenues of England were much greater than those of Mauritius.

Sir C. Antelme said that he had great admiration for the talent of Mr. Ledwith, but he was compelled to say that he had drawn too gloomy a picture of the general state of the Colony. He then drew a parallel between Mauritius, an English colony, and Martinique, a French colony. While here money was asked from an impoverished country, at Martinique which had lately suffered from the ravages of a hurricane, the Government furnished it with money and the means of recovering itself.

Mr. W. Newton said that last year, in protesting against the increase of the military contribution, he had pointed out the difference in the system existing on this subject in England and France towards their colonies. The French colonies have representatives in the Chamber of Deputies, whereas those of the British Empire have no one in Parliament to control the policy which the Government may think proper to adopt with respect to them. They could not therefore oppose that policy. Last year he had occasion to prove that England had never done anything in favour of the Colonies.

Mr. Newton said that the honourable member concluding by saying that all the official members from the bottom of their hearts were against the proposed Ordinance and in voting for it they would vote against their consciences. He replied and sympathized with them.

Mr. A. P. Ambrose also expressed himself as being opposed to the Ordinance.

On being put to the vote the Ordinance was rejected by 15 votes against 12, all the unofficials voting against and all the officials for. The result of the vote was hailed with applause.

## THE STRAITS TRADE.

HEAVY DECREASE IN BOTH IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The imports to the Straits Settlements for the fourth quarter of 1891 (exclusive of treasure) came to:—

Singapore ..... \$21,684,000  
Penang ..... 7,043,000  
Malacca ..... 355,000  
being a decrease, as compared with 1890, of

Singapore ..... \$1,501,000  
Penang ..... 2,352,000  
Malacca ..... 100,000

The total decrease below the fourth quarter of 1890 is \$3,853,000.

The exports (exclusive of treasure) in the fourth quarter of 1891 are:—

Singapore ..... \$18,166,000  
Penang ..... 8,149,000  
Malacca ..... 354,000  
As compared with the fourth quarter of the year 1890 the decrease are:—

Singapore ..... \$1,573,000  
Penang ..... 1,480,000  
Malacca ..... 124,000

The total decrease in exports as compared with the corresponding quarter of 1890 is \$3,187,000.—*Straits Times*.

## HOW A BIG SWINDLE WAS FLOATED.

TRUE—MORE OR LESS.

Someone suggested, the other day, that the "Autobiography of a Promoter" would make a good shilling shocker. I daresay it would, if an experienced man could be got to put it together. If there be such an individual on the face of the earth as a company promoter with literary tendencies, he is welcome to the idea, and in order to further facilitate the work, I will give him my experience. He might and himself hard up for a chapter, and if so he might do worse than fill up the hiatus with the following account of how I floated the Great Eysore Reef.

The beginning of the business was thuswise. In June, 1890, an old schoolfellow of mine, who had spent the best part of his life knocking about abroad, looked me up at my office, and in the course of conversation said that he had bought some land out at the Cape.

"I gave a few shillings an acre for it, but, as a matter of fact, I don't suppose it is worth as many pence. You don't happen to know anyone, I suppose, who would like to take it off my hands? It is of no earthly use to me, and I'm rather in want of money just now, so I should be glad to take what I gave for it, and have done with it forever."

I asked for particulars, and Atkins told me all I required, and showed me a plan. I kept this paper, and saying that I thought I knew someone who might be inclined to entertain the matter, asked him to call the following day.

That evening I ran across the very man I wanted in the Criterion grill-room. He was mixed up in company business, and knew every inch of South Africa, for he had floated a score of African mines, including the Tumb-Tumb Reef, Pumpkins, Limited, the Sausage-and-Washed Consoles, and others equally well-known to fame as a few of the very finest and first water. We had a "small bottle," and I showed him the plans. He looked at them carefully and then said, "How much does your friend want for the land?"

I named the price, and without a moment's hesitation, and in a very firm and decided tone of voice, he said, "You buy it, my boy, and I'll help you to put it into a company. We ought to make a goodish bit out of it, both of us, for I see that it is only half-a-dozen miles from the Water-cress Reef, which has been paying 15 per cent. ever since it started."

"But half-a-dozen miles—"

Phillips laughed. "Oh, you ain't up to snuff, dear boy. We won't tell people it's half-a-dozen miles, you bet. In the prospectus we'll state the distance in kilometres, or decimals, or something which nobody will understand, and they'll think it's next door to the Water-cress Reef. The 15 per cent. will have to be started in big type and red ink, and if that don't fetch 'em, I don't know what will. You buy the land, dear boy, and then come to me."

I took his advice and bought the land, giving Atkins a bit more than he asked, just for the sake of old times, don't you know. Then the property was transferred to me, that part of the business being looked after by a solicitor, Mr. Markby, whom Phillips introduced to me as a "real 'covey," and no mistake. And that I found him to be. The wonder to me is that he has existed so long without being struck off the rolls; but either the Incorporated Law Society is very blind, or his deluded clients singularly well-mannered and forgiving, for thus far no one has called him to account, and if he only lives long enough he ought to have as difficult a time as I in qualifying for a very front seat in Hades.

Well, Markby saw the thing through, and did his business cheaply—out for love, bless you, but on the distinct understanding that he should be made solicitor to the company when it was formed. The preliminary settlement there will be a report from the engineer, an analysis of the soil and a lot of figures to go on. It will be a going concern, you see. With a little ingenuity we ought to make the thing go like thunder. First of all, however, we must get hold of a good man to send out, one who knows how to fake up a tip-top report. I think I know the very man for the job."

He did. Smith was an old hand, and was prepared, return for an adequate fee, to go to the North Pole and bring back a glowing report, curdling the rich mineral treasures concealed in that hitherto inaccessible spot. Smith was commissioned to buy an engine, some spades, a pump, and a few other things, and to send the bill to us. The total cost was £75, which was not an excessive outlay, when you come to think of it, for developing and working a gigantic mine. Smith shipped himself and his belongings to the Cape, and in due course we heard that he had started work, and after a few weeks a long report on foolscap paper, and full of technical jargon about quartz, reefs, ledges, winzes, shafts, and things followed, together with a sealed box of ore, which was handed to a big firm of chemists for analysis. The analysis was as rosy as one could wish, and everything looked well.

The next step was to get a vendor, for neither Phillips nor myself wanted to appear in connection with the scheme. An advertisement something like the following was inserted in the *Times*:

Wanted: Young gentleman as secretary to a gentleman engaged in financial operations. Must be of good address. Clear handwriting, knowledge of shorthand, and some acquaintance with business. Inquire of Mr. J. C. Fisher and Co., Advertising Agents, Lodge Lane, City.

We got 263 applications, and chose a smart youth, who, in due course, brought the property for which I had given £125, for the respectable sum of £125,000. We had how far improved the value when it is situated only a few miles from dividend-paying reef, and when a drunken engineer and a rusty boiler are dumped down on it. Our sharp solicitor saw that everything was right, drew up the contracts and did everything else that was necessary. Then Phillips and I put our heads together and drew up the prospectus. I need not give that highly original and deely interesting document in full. If I did, this might read like a romance instead of a plain statement of solid facts. The analysis gave an average of 18oz. of gold to the ton, and we reckoned how many tons we could bring to the surface daily, the cost of doing it, and the profit we could earn. It was a fearful profit; the dividend we reckoned to pay was 12 per cent. on the ordinary shares, and the founders' shares were to carry everything over that.

The capital was £500,000, divided into 50,000 shares of £10 each. Having gone through the prospectus a dozen times, making alterations and improvements here, there and everywhere, we finally got a clean proof from the printers, with spaces left for the names of directors and other officers of the company. Phillips got hold of some accountants, arranged with the London and Eastminster Bank to take the account, and fished up a secretary. The directors only remained to be secured, and these were noticed one at a time. There was a capital of £500,000, and I absolutely nothing about company work. I am M. P., I know less, if such a state of things were possible, an East-end mineral water maker; and myself. It was not by any means what may be termed a brilliant board, but it looked solid and substantial, and what is more, honest. "Nothing like looking honest," muttered Phillips, unctuously, as he wrote out an order for the printers to strike off 400,000 copies of the prospectus, and to put 300,000 in stamps and wrappers.

"Now there is one thing more to be done," Phillips added, with a yawn.

"To square the Press," I suggested.

"You've hit it, my boy. Now, I know a man who will do the trick beautifully for us." (Phillips was always knowing men who would do something or other. I subsequently learnt that he made a bit himself out of all these odd jobs.)

This useful p-r-on lived somewhere in Westminster, and knew all about papers and the right people to approach with a catch of "getting things in." Some of the small struggling papers were only too glad to insert whole columns descriptive of the rich gold-bearing reefs in South Africa, and more especially that wonder of wonders, the Eysore Reef, on consideration that we took a few hundred copies. Others wanted a distinct promise of a page or half-page advertisement when the company came out, whilst one or two not only demanded advertisements, but also a payment of £500 a tiny paragraph of ten lines of type. Five pounds a line, rather dear, but the paragraphs did us a lot of good, for we soon heard people talking about the Eysore Reef, and that was what we wanted. There was one financial organ I won't particularise, which had the effrontery to insist upon a whole page advertisement (£100), another £100 for a short article, £10 for two. Answers to Correspondents' queries of the Eysore Reef, another £10 for a couple of paragraphs, and a final allotment of 200 fully-paid £5 shares. Nice work, wasn't it? But we cheerfully did the needful for that article, and those paragraphs did us a world of good.

Well, the company was advertised by Flisley & Co., who had £10,000 placed in their hands for the purpose. I afterwards learnt that they only spent £6,000 of that sum, so they cleared a nice profit of £4,000, together with the usual 15 per cent. which they squeezed out of the hapless newspaper editors, and it subsequently transpired that this honest man had shovelled the advertisements in all sorts of obscure papers, which was, of course, so much money wasted. Well, what with good notices and advertisements, every blessed share was applied for. We allotted the bulk of the founders' shares to ourselves and our personal friends, and also appropriated a good lump of the ordinary stock. An office was taken, and then began the fun. Some more machinery was shipped out to the mine, Phillips supplying it at 50 per cent. profit, and we got reports from time to time announcing progress. The directors met, drew their fees, had splendid luncheons, and smoked eighteen-penny cigars. Then one fine day there came a glowing cablegram from the mine. It was published in the press, and we went the shares like a rocket. Phillips and I sold out like wildfire, and prices fell, but only for a short time, for it was announced in the papers that the Water-cress Reef had earned 50 per cent. for the current year. This good news had a distinctly beneficial effect on our stock (for you will remember that the Eysore Reef was only half a dozen miles from the Water-cress). The price went up still higher, and we cautiously got rid of every scrap of stock.

Well, I won't continue the history of this nice little swindle. Rosy reports ceased coming from the mine, the money continued to melt away, the shareholders grew angry, and a nasty spiteful little party, which had not been squared on a sufficiently lavish scale, got its kaffe into us.

The whole history of the scheme was published in detail, and there was a row. I retired from the Board, and a committee of investigation was appointed to enquire into matters. The result of the enquiry was the appointment of a receiver, and but for a dearth of money and an absence of spirit amongst the deluded shareholders, we might all have been in the dock of the Old Bailey ere this.

Where the great Eysore Reef is now, I've alone knows, and, as they used to say in Cape Court, he won't tell under a pin.

## BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL.

France sends out the best false hair. Europe uses 60,000,000 matches daily. Great Britain has 202,300 acres of orchards. Switzerland is creating its first sugar factory. Russia makes 20,000,000 wooden spoons a year. Baltimore employs 11 plumbers to be licensed. Illinois pays her Lieutenant Governor \$277 a day.

Toys employ 32,000 work-people in Thuringia, Central Germany. The world is producing 1,000,000 pounds of silk a year. About 2,000 women are employed in the Elgin, Ill., watch factory. There are 383 miles of street railway in operation in Philadelphia.

Out of 774 blast-furnaces in Great Britain only 385 are in operation at present. America, Ind., is to have an aluminium plant that will employ 1,000 persons. Fifty tank-steamer are now carrying oil in bulk from the United States to Europe. The fibrous covering of cocoons is used extensively in making ropes and mats.

The State of Vermont produced over 17,000,000 pounds of maple sugar last year. Thirteen tons of postage stamps are said to have been sold in New York city last year. There are 20,000,000 dogs in the United States, and it costs \$300,000 per annum to keep them.

The world consumes 3,000,000,000 pounds of paper per year, and it is supplied by 4,500 paper-mills. A Philadelphia druggist sells bath bags filled with bran and almond meal for softening the skin.

Recent statistics show that the total horsepower represented by the world's machinery is 334,000,000. Factories in Philadelphia use one hundred horse-hides each week to cover base-balls during the season.

A national association has been organised in New York to extend the industrial scheme of profit-sharing. In 1885 there were 47,000,000 sheep in the United States, 72,000,000 in Australia, and 100,000,000 in the Argentine Republic.

The number of freight cars in the United States is placed at about 915,000, and the number of passenger cars at about 27,000. Americans only consume about one and a quarter pounds of tea per head yearly, but use from seven to nine pounds of coffee per head to make up for it.

An original and important industry is carried on at Kansas City in the manufacture of soap from the wild and prickly plant of the prairies, known as the Mexican soap weed.

There are now engaged at work on the Niagara Falls tunnel 400 men and sixteen mules, while on the surface two more workmen are employed. Work goes on continuously except Sunday, the men working in 12-hour shifts.

The report of the United States Census Bureau shows that "the average earnings of all persons employed at the gold and silver mines during the year 1889 were \$725 a year, while the average output per man amounted to \$1,723 a year."

During the English protectorate over Egypt irrigation has been extended in almost every direction, thus insuring the agricultural production of a wonderful extent. Last year Egypt raised 400,000,000 pounds of cotton, or nearly one-fourth of the entire quantity consumed in Great Britain.

An official list has lately been published of the wages paid in Germany to the whole of the railway employes on the State railways in that empire. The Presidents do not reap colossal wealth, their pay being a little over £500 a year only, and this is by a long way the highest salary paid upon the railway.

DEAFNESS ABSOLUTELY CURED.—A Gentleman who cured himself of Deafness and Noises in the Head of 14 years standing, by a new method, will be pleased to send full particulars free. Address HERBERT CLIFTON, 8, Shepherd's place, Kenington Park, London, S.E., Eng.—*Advt.*

## CHINA COAST METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.

7th April, 1892.—At 4 p.m.

STATION.	Bar.	Therm.	Humid.	Wind.	Cloud.	State.
Whampoa	30.0	68	85	SE	100	Cloudy
Tientsin	30.0	68	85	SE	100	Cloudy
Shanghai	30.0	68	85	SE	100	Cloudy
Amoy	30.0	68	85	SE	100	Cloudy
Canton	30.0	68	85	SE	100	Cloudy
Hankow	30.0	68	85	SE	100	Cloudy
Yokohama	30.0	68	85	SE	100	Cloudy
Manila	30.0	68	85	SE	100	Cloudy
Batavia	30.0	68	85	SE	100	Cloudy
Singapore	30.0	68	85	SE	100	Cloudy
Penang	30.0	68	85	SE	100	Cloudy
Malacca	30.0	68	85	SE	100	Cloudy
Cape St. John	30.0	68	85	SE	100	Cloudy

8th April, 1892.—At 10 a.m.

STATION.	Bar.	Therm.	Humid.	Wind.	Cloud.	State.
Whampoa	30.0	68	85	SE	100	Cloudy
Tientsin	30.0	68	85	SE	100	Cloudy
Shanghai	30.0	68	85	SE	100	Cloudy
Amoy	30.0	68	85	SE	100	Cloudy
Canton	30.0	68	85	SE	100	Cloudy
Hankow	30.0	68	85	SE	100	Cloudy
Yokohama	30.0	68	85	SE	100	Cloudy
Manila	30.0	68	85	SE	100	Cloudy
Batavia	30.0	68	85	SE	100	Cloudy
Singapore	30.0	68	85	SE	100	Cloudy
Penang	30.0	68	85	SE	100	Cloudy
Malacca	30.0	68	85	SE	100	Cloudy
Cape St. John	30.0	68	85	SE	100	Cloudy

Barometer rising. Gentle breeze from north-east with light rain. (Read at 10 a.m.)

Weather reduced to level of the sea in inches under and above the mean. —Time of day according to the standard of Greenwich. —Time of day according to the standard of London. —Time of day according to the standard of Paris. —Time of day according to the standard of Rome. —Time of day according to the standard of Constantinople. —Time of day according to the standard of Bombay. —Time of day according to the standard of Calcutta. —Time of day according to the standard of Madras. —Time of day according to the standard of Singapore. —Time of day according to the standard of Penang. —Time of day according to the standard of Malacca. —Time of day according to the standard of Cape St. John.

Hongkong Observatory, 8th April, 1892.

## Advertisements.

WEST POINT WEST POINT EVERY EVENING.

ALL OTHERS MADE WITH THE SETTING SUN, BUT WE APPEAR BRIGHTER THAN EVER.

HARMSTON & SONS' GRAND CIRCUS.

GYMNASTIC JACK

ROMAN HIPPODROME

AMERICAN WILD WEST SHOW.

W. B. HARMSTON & SON, SOLE PROPRIETORS.

GILBERTO'S MARVELLOUS FORWARD SOMERSAULT ACT.

Three Artists only have lived that ever accomplished this Wonderful Feat.

THE WORLD CHALLENGED to produce our Equals. The Meteors that shadow all others are our Heroes of two Hemispheres.

"The Greatest Lady Equestrienne," "The Greatest Vindicator," "The Greatest Somersault Rider," "The Greatest Jockey."

JOHNNY SHARMAN and HIS TRAINED DGS.

CHARLEY, THE GROTE QUE MUSICAL CLOWN.

THE BABY ELEPHANTS.

ARIZONA CHARLEY, KING OF THE LASSO.

EVERY EVENING AT WEST POINT.

TO-MORROW AFTERNOON, April 9th, at 4 p.m.

GRAND MATINEE for Schools and Families. Children Half-price to all parts of the Circus.

PRICES OF ADMISSION: Box of 6 Chairs ..... \$12.00

Single seat in Box ..... 2.00

Dress circle chairs ..... 1.50

Stalls, carpeted seats ..... 1.00

Gallery (for Chinese only) ..... 0.50

Box plan on view at Kelly & Walsh's, where seats can be booked.

CHAS. B. HICKS, ..... Manager.

ROBERT LOVE, ..... General Agent.

Hongkong, 8th April, 1892. 1387

GARRISON THEATRE, NORTH BARRACKS.

UNDER the Patronage of H.E. Major-General G. DIGBY BARKER, C.B., Commanding H. M. Troops in China.

THE "MILITARY NUMMERS" WILL GIVE A PERFORMANCE of Tom Taylor's Sensational Drama "THE TICKET-OF-LEAVE



